



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: )  
Inventor: HOBBS, Steven E. et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2881  
Serial No.: 10/736,154 ) Examiner: [not yet assigned]  
Filed: December 13, 2003 ) Attorney Docket: 133-US  
For: HIGH THROUGHPUT SYSTEMS AND )  
METHODS FOR PARALLEL SAMPLE )  
ANALYSIS )

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is provided before the receipt of a first Office Action pursuant to MPEP 714.01(e). It is not believed that any fee is due with this amendment; however, if Applicants are incorrect in this regard then please treat this as authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 502454 for any necessary fee.

### Amendment

Kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

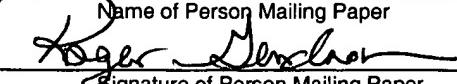
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#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. §1.8)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient first class postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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March 31, 2004  
Date of Deposit

Roger Gendron  
Name of Person Mailing Paper  
  
Signature of Person Mailing Paper



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

The Application of:  
HOBBS, Steven E. et al. )  
Title: **HIGH THROUGHPUT SYSTEMS  
AND METHODS FOR PARALLEL  
SAMPLE ANALYSIS** ) Group Art Unit: 2881  
Serial Number: 10/736,154 ) Examiner: [not yet assigned]  
Filed: December 13, 2003 ) Attorney Docket: 133-US  
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TRANSMITTAL

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the following documents for the above-identified application:

- Transmittal Letter (1 page)
- Preliminary Amendment (3 pages)
- Return Postcard

Applicants have not yet received a first office action on the merits in the above-referenced application, and therefore Applicants believe that no fee is due pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(b). If Applicants' belief is incorrect, please charge any necessary fees to our Deposit Account Number 502454.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent K. Gustafson  
Reg. No. 46,182

Dated: March 31, 2004

**USPTO Customer No.: 32763**

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